

reform alone. We ought to take some of that money that your Government has been wasting all these years and use it to uphold Government's first responsibility, which is to keep our citizens safe here at home. With that money, we can make our crime bill even stronger. We can make sure we put at least 50,000 police officers on the street over the next 5 years. We can help States to build more boot camps so we can take young criminals off the street and teach them more respect for the law and give them a chance to avoid a life in prison and live a life of constructive citizenship. We can have more drug courts, like the one the Attorney General started in Florida and the one our administration is helping to launch here in DC, so we can stop sending tens of thousands of criminal addicts back onto the street every year where they'll commit more crimes if they don't get treatment first.

I want Congress to pass this crime bill and pass the savings I've asked to help pay for it. I want them to know that if these cuts aren't passed, I'm going to come back with more cuts. And if those aren't passed, I'll come back with still more. I'll keep coming back until we have the money we need to make America safer.

Procurement reform shares a common border with many of our most important goals: saving taxpayer money, reinventing Government, strengthening our military, improving our economy. But in a larger sense the steps we are taking here today are also about proving to the

American people that we can honestly and seriously deal with the issues that matter most to them and that for too long too many have felt powerless to change. We can and will cut the deficit. We can and will run a Government that works better and costs less. We can and will turn those savings to helping America, including helping more Americans be safer in their homes and on their streets.

I'd like to close by introducing to you Lieutenant Colonel Brad Orton. He has a story to tell that reveals the price we continue to pay by doing nothing in this important area. During the Gulf war, the Air Force placed an emergency order for 6,000 Motorola commercial radio receivers. But because Motorola's commercial unit lacked the record-keeping systems required to show the Pentagon that it was getting the lowest available price, the deal reached an impasse. The issue was resolved in a remarkable way that Lieutenant Colonel Orton will now describe, involving the Japanese Government. This should never happen again.

Today is about taking responsibility for doing better, working together to build a better America. We can do this, Congress, the administration, the American people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. The memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Federal Procurement Reforms

October 26, 1993

American taxpayers have a right to expect that their Federal dollars are being put to the best possible use. The current Federal procurement system is inefficient and wasteful. It adds significant costs without providing extra value. It's time the Federal Government viewed Federal purchasing as a major source of savings by creating a more efficient and responsive Federal procurement system.

If Congress does their part and we do our part in the administration, procurement reforms in the first year alone will save enough money to fund something Americans care deeply about, fighting crime by fighting drugs and putting more police on the streets all across our country.

NOTE: The President's statement was included in a White House statement announcing procurement reforms and spending cut proposals.